

Application No. 10/781,138
Amendment Dated: January 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

In the Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic appliance organizer ~~for storing orthodontic appliances in bulk and facilitating the setup of individual orthodontic cases without reorienting the appliances in transfer from a bulk supply thereof to a setup tray, the organizer comprising: an appliance organizer tray having a set-up tray support thereon with structure to restrain the orientation of the a set-up tray in a given fixed orientation relative to the organizer tray; the appliance organizer tray also having a plurality of holders that are situated thereon so as to define a predetermined orientation relative to the set-up tray support, each holder provided with structure for holding an orthodontic appliance, each in a restricted the same predetermined fixed orientation on the organizer tray, for transfer to the a set-up tray, that is supported in the given fixed orientation on the set-up tray support, with minimal reorientation of the appliance.~~
8. (Currently Amended) The organizer of claim 7 wherein:
the structure of each of the holders for holding an orthodontic appliance includes structure configured to receive a package of appliances and to hold the package in a ~~restricted~~ ~~fixed specific~~ orientation relative to the organizer tray.
9. (Currently Amended) The organizer of claim 7 wherein:
the structure of ~~each of~~ the holders for holding an orthodontic appliance includes a recess having a pair of opposed slots on opposite sides thereof configured to receive a flange of a package of appliances and to hold the package in a ~~a restricted the fixed specific~~ orientation relative to the organizer tray.

Application No. 10/781,138

Amendment Dated: January 9, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006

10. (Currently Amended) The organizer of claim **7** wherein:

the plurality of holders[,-]includes one holder for each of a plurality of upper teeth of a patient on which the appliances are to be mounted, the holders for the upper teeth being arranged along one side of the set-up tray support on the organizer tray, and one holder for each of a plurality of lower teeth of a patient on which the appliances are to be mounted, the holders for the lower teeth being arranged along another and opposite side of the set-up tray support on the organizer tray that is opposite said one side.

11. (Original) The organizer of claim **7** further comprising:

a base having a plurality of storage compartments therein, each corresponding to one of the holders of the organizer tray and each configured to hold a supply of one of the orthodontic appliances; and

the organizer tray being moveably attached to the base so as to form an openable cover to the compartments therein.

12. (Original) The organizer of claim **11** wherein:

the base has a compartment therein configured to hold a supply of set-up trays therein.

13. (Currently Amended) The system for organizing orthodontic appliances on a set-up tray comprising:

the organizer of claim **7**;

a set-up tray on the set-up tray support in a predetermined fixed orientation relative to the organizer tray;

at least one of each of a plurality of orthodontic appliances, of a set that includes appliances configured for different teeth of a patient, held in each the holders of the organizer, each in [a-]the predetermined fixed orientation relative to the set-up tray.

Application No. 10/781,138

Amendment Dated: January 9, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **13** wherein;
the at least one of each of the plurality of orthodontic appliances of the set includes a package
containing a plurality of identical ones of said appliances, each held in the package in
~~a predetermined~~ the same orientation relative to the package, the package being held
in a respective one of the holders of the organizer in [a] ~~the~~ predetermined fixed
orientation relative to the organizer tray.

15. (Original) The system of claim **14** further comprising:
a base openably attached to the organizer tray and having a plurality of compartments therein,
each having therein a plurality of packages therein of appliances corresponding to one
of the teeth of the patient.

Application No. 10/781,138

Amendment Dated: January 9, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006

16. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic appliance package for use in an organizer system to present a bulk supply of orthodontic appliances in a fixed predetermined orientation for transfer to a setup tray without substantial reorientation comprising; a carrier having a plurality of appliance constraining elements therein; a plurality of substantially identical orthodontic appliances supported on the carrier, each appliance configured for placement on the same one, and only one, of the teeth of a patient; a cover attached to the carrier to cover the plurality of appliances in each of the appliance constraining elements and removable from the carrier to simultaneously expose each of the plurality of appliances for removal from the constraining elements; each appliance constraining element of the carrier having one of the plurality of an orthodontic appliances therein, each constrained in the same orientation relative to the carrier, the appliance constraining elements snugly holding the respective appliances to the carrier when the cover is removed; and guide structure configured to fix the orientation of the package relative to an organizer tray when the package is loaded onto cooperating structure on the organizer tray and to thereby present the appliances supported on the carrier in the same orientation that is predetermined in relation to the organizer tray.

17. (Currently Amended) The appliance package of claim **16** wherein: the carrier has an elongated recess therein containing the plurality appliance constraining element therein; the each appliance constraining elements include element includes a plurality of cavities on the carrier, each cavity having surfaces shaped to hold an one of the orthodontic appliances therein in a fixed orientation relative to the carrier; and

Application No. 10/781,138

Amendment Dated: January 9, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006

the guide structure includes a flange on the carrier configured to fit into slots on an organizer tray to attach the package to the organizer tray in an orientation that is fixed relative to an organizer tray.

18. (Currently Amended) The appliance package of claim 17 wherein:
the carrier has the flange on opposite sides thereof and has a handle at one end thereof;
~~each appliance is a different one of the orthodontic brackets of a set, each bracket having~~
~~appliance has~~ a base and a gingival edge on one side of the base; and
the brackets are each confined, ~~base down~~, in each of the cavities with the gingival edge thereof facing the handle of the carrier.
19. (Currently Amended) The appliance package of claim 16 wherein:
the carrier has a handle at one end thereof;
~~each appliance is a different one of the orthodontic brackets of a set, each bracket having~~
~~appliance has~~ a base and a gingival edge on one side of the base; and
the brackets are each confined, ~~base down~~, in each of the cavities with the gingival edge thereof facing the handle of the carrier.
20. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic appliance supply comprising:
a plurality of the appliance packages of claim 16, each containing a plurality of ~~substantially~~
identical orthodontic brackets in the same orientation relative to the carrier;
~~different ones of the appliance packages of the plurality respectively containing different~~
brackets of a set, ~~one~~ for mounting on ~~each of the~~ different teeth of a patient.

Application No. 10/781,138

Amendment Dated: January 9, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006

21. (New) The appliance package of claim **16** wherein:

the cover is slidably mounted on the guide structure so as to be slidably removable from the carrier to simultaneously expose the plurality of appliances and render the appliances accessible for removal from the appliance constraining elements.

22. (New) The appliance package of claim **21** wherein:

the cover is slideable on the flange.

23. (New) The appliance package of claim **16** wherein:

each of the appliance constraining elements includes a cavity having surfaces shaped to hold one of the orthodontic appliances in the cavity when the cavities are uncovered.

24. (New) The appliance package of claim **17** wherein:

each of the appliance constraining elements has a shape configured to hold one of the orthodontic appliances in the cavity when the cavities are uncovered.

25. (New) The organizer of claim **10** wherein:

all of the appliances are in the same relative orientations with respect to the holders in which they are held; and

the holders for each of the upper teeth arranged in a first orientation relative to the set-up tray support, and the holders for each of the lower teeth are arranged in a second orientation relative to the set-up tray support that is opposite the first orientation.

26. (New) The organizer of claim **7** wherein:

all of the appliances are in the same relative orientations with respect to the respective holders in which they are held; and

Application No. 10/781,138

Amendment Dated: January 9, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006

the holders include a first plurality of holders arranged in a first orientation relative to the set-up tray support and a second plurality of holders arranged in a second orientation relative to the set-up tray support that differs from first orientation.

27. (New) The system of claim **14** wherein:

the plurality of holders includes a first plurality of holders in a first predetermined fixed

orientation relative to the set-up tray support on the organizer tray; and

the plurality of holders further includes a second plurality of holders in a second

predetermined fixed orientation, which differs from the first predetermined fixed orientation relative to the set-up tray support on the organizer tray.

28. (New) The organizer of claim **7** further comprising:

a set-up tray supported in the given fixed orientation on the set-up tray support, the set-up

tray having a plurality of areas thereon, each area configured for holding a different one of a plurality of appliances of a set orientated for transfer to the teeth of a patient with minimal reorientation; and

a plurality of appliances of an appliance set, each held in respective ones of the holders on the organizer tray in the predetermined fixed orientations for transfer to areas of the set-up tray.

Application No. 10/781,138

Amendment Dated: January 9, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006

29. (New) An orthodontic appliance package comprising:

an elongated carrier having a base with planar upwardly facing surface having an elongated downwardly extending recess formed therein;

the recess a plurality of cavities therein arranged on a longitudinal centerline of the elongated recess, each cavity being adapted to receive and to snugly but releasably hold an orthodontic appliance;

the base having a flat flange that extends outwardly in a plane along sides of the recess with a tab handle formed at one end thereof and a pair of straight parallel edges extending along opposite transverse sides thereof for guiding and supporting the package in an organizer tray; and

a plurality of orthodontic brackets having substantially identical configurations that adapt the brackets for bonding to a specific one of a patient's teeth, each bracket having a bonding base with opposite occlusal and gingival edges and opposite mesial and distal edges, each bracket being packaged in the one of the cavities of the carrier with base facing down and oriented with the occlusal edges of their bases facing in the same direction along the longitudinal centerline of the recess.

30. (New) The organizer of claim **29** further comprising:

a flexible foam insert in the recess having the cavities formed therein.

31. (New) The organizer of claim **29** further comprising:

an elongated cover having parallel internal channels formed along opposite transverse edges thereof which fit over the flange enclosing the brackets in the cavities and slidably removable from the carrier to expose the brackets for removal from the cavities.

Application No. 10/781,138

Amendment Dated: January 9, 2007

Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2006

32. (New) The appliance package of claim **21** wherein:

each of the appliance constraining elements includes a cavity having a foam insert therein

having surfaces shaped to snugly hold one of the orthodontic appliances in the cavity
when the cover is removed.